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MINUTES

OF THE

FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

No. Ca. and Va. Christian Conference,

HELD AT

UNION CHAPEL, ALAMANCE CO., N. C.,

Nov. 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th, 1867.

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MINUTES.

UNION CHAPEL, NORTH CAROLINA,
TUESDAY EVENING, Nov. 5th, 1867.

The NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE met to-day, and was called to order by Rev. T. J. Fowler, Vice-President of last session. The roll of Conference was then read, and the following ministers appeared and took their seats, viz:

Elders.—T. J. Fowler, Solomon Apple, Alfred Apple, J. W. Wellons, A. Iseley, J. N. Manning, E. W. Beale, J. N. Farrell, A. G. Anderson, R. G. Tinnen, D. T. Deanes, W. S. Long, C. A. Apple, W. D. Moffitt, and C. A. Boon.

Licentiate.—Abner Apple.

The attendance was small. A bare majority of the Ministers of Conference were present.

The following delegates handed in their credentials, and were admitted to seats as members of Conference, viz:

J. W. Boyd, W. B. Farmer, John M. Moring, W. G. Clements, Leonidas Hatch, Richard Tuck, Richard C. Tuck, Wm. Apple, Robert Maynard, Martin Jones, P. V. Lewis, Dr. J. Strader, W. H. Read, C. E. Ayscue, T. H. May, S. C. Blackley, B. E. Smith, W. K. Martin, Lewis Iseley, W. H. Moore, John Lynch, John Compton, J. G. Garrison, J. G. Dickey, G. R. Maynard, R. G. Faucette, Dr. W. C. Tarpley, Allen Ellis, W. T. Walker, David Huffines, F. McKaughan, P. R. Hardin, Lewis J. Apple, Matthew McCauley, John Cummins, David Bragg, J. A Gunter, John Garrison, Samuel Crawford, Austin Whitsitt, P. H. Apple, M. Murchison, and John S. Graves. A majority of the churches were represented.

On motion of Rev. A. G. Anderson, an election was held for President; but before a choice was made, Conference adjourned to meet to-morrow morning, 9 o'clock. Prayer by Rev. J. W. Wellons.

WEDNESDAY, Nov. 6th.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment, and was called to order by Rev. T. J. Fowler, President *pro tem.* Singing and prayer by Rev. J. N. Manning.

Minutes of yesterday read and approved.

Conference then proceeded to ballot for President, which resulted in the election of Brother W. K. Martin, who, upon taking his seat, made a short but impressive address.

Rev. T. J. Fowler was then elected Vice-President.

A petition was received from the church at Liberty School-House, Guilford county, N. C., praying admission into this body.

On motion of Rev. W. S. Long, the church at Liberty School-House was admitted a member of Conference.

On motion, Revs. W. S. Long, and J. W. Wellons, and Brother W. H. Read were appointed a committee to report the most suitable time for the meeting and adjournment of Conference each day.

On motion of C. E. Ayscue, the letters from the various churches were referred to a committee of three. The chair appointed W. S. Long, C. E. Ayscue, and T. H. May said committee.

The chair announced the following committee on Religious Exercises, viz: A. G. Anderson, J. G. Garrison, and J. G. Dickey.

The committee, composed of W. S. Long, J. W. Wellons, and W. H. Read, appointed for that purpose, reported: That we meet at 10 o'clock A. M.; have a recess at 11½ o'clock, for religious exercises; meet again at 1 o'clock P. M., and adjourn at will.

The report was received and adopted.

Letters were then read from Revs. H. B. Hayes, and W. H. Franks, and Licentiate J. W. Hatch.

A letter was received and read from the colored Christian Churches within the bounds of this Conference, asking permission to form a conference composed wholly of colored minis-

ters and churches. The letter was laid upon the table until to-morrow, 2 o'clock P. M.

The following preamble and resolution, offered by Rev. C. A. Apple, were adopted:

WHEREAS, The former state of things with regard to the active operations of the church has been highly unsatisfactory;

And, whereas, New measures have been recently adopted looking to a change for the better; therefore,

Resolved, That a judicious committee of five be appointed to enquire how these measures may be most effectually carried into exection.

By request of the President, he was relieved of the duty of appointing the committee in accordance with the above resolution; and the following were elected by acclamation, viz: J. N. Manning, C. A. Apple, Sol. Apple, J. W. Wellons, and W. S. Long.

Conference took recess for half an hour, after which, on motion of Rev. A. G. Anderson, Rev. W. B. Wellons, of the Eastern Virginia Conference was invited to a seat as a fraternal messenger. Brother Wellons, upon taking his seat, made a few well conceived and appropriate remarks.

On motion, the chair appointed the following standing committees, viz:

On Education—J. N. Manning, C. A. Apple, W. S. Long, Solomon Apple, E. W. Beale, A. G. Anderson, and W. D. Moffitt.

Home Missions—J. W. Wellons, Sol. Apple, and W. H. Read.

Sabbath Schools—W. S. Long, C. E. Ayscue, and J. M. Moring.

Temperance—J. N. Manning, J. N. Farrell, and D. T. Deans.

On motion, the committee on *Character and Standing of the Ministry* was dismissed, as the duties usually devolving on this committee are provided for in our Form of Government.

On motion, the chair announced the following *Committtee on Periodicals*, viz: E. W. Beale, J. W. Wellons, and J. M. Moring.

On motion, Conference adjourned to meet to-morrow, 10 o'clock A. M. Prayer by Rev. S. Apple.

THURSDAY, Nov. 7th.

Conference met pursuant to adjournment, and was called to order by the President. Singing and prayer by Rev. A. G. Anderson.

The minutes of yesterday were read and approved.

On motion of Rev. J. W. Wellons, the name of the church at Utley's School-House was changed to Hayes' Chapel.

On motion, the name of John Goodrich was dropped from the list of Elders, he having united with another denomination.

On motion, the Secretary of Conference was requested to correspond with Rev. Job S. Swift, and enquire into the cause of his long absence, and the reason why he does not communicate with this body.

Conference adjourned to hear the annual address by Rev. W. D. Moffitt, which was instructive and listened to with attention.

Conference convened at 2 o'clock P. M.

The special order of the hour, the petition from the colored churches, was considered, and, on motion, the prayer of the petitioners was granted, and J. W. Wellons, H. B. Hayes, and W. H. Franks were appointed to assist in forming the conference, desired.

On motion, the church at Pleasant Hill, Chatham county, N. C., was received as a member of this body, and her delegate admitted to a seat.

On motion, a committee of three was appointed to take into consideration a certain communication directed to this body, to wit: J. N. Manning, E. W. Beale, and J. W. Wellons.

On motion, Conference adjourned; prayer by Rev. W. B. Wellons.

FRIDAY, Nov. 8th.

Conference convened at the usual hour, and was called to order by the President; singing, and prayer by Rev. A. Iseley.

The Executive Committee reported as follows; which was received and adopted:

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee, to whom the case of Rev. B. N. Hopkins was specially referred, report that, having duly informed the accused and those who opposed his course, of the time and place of investigating the charges preferred, they met on Monday after the first Sunday in December last, to examine the case in question; and after as patient and careful hearing as we could give to the evidence of the parties, we were compelled to decide that Elder Hopkins' course in three several cases was unbecoming and highly reprehensible. They were, therefore, painfully constrained to continue his suspension until the present meeting of your body.

Upon communicating this decision to him, he manifested great warmth of feeling, and surrendered his credentials to the chairman of your committee, which are herewith presented to Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

A. ISELEY, *Chairman.*

On motion, which unanimously prevailed, the name of B. N. Hopkins was dropped from the list of ministers.

The Educational Committee made a partial report, as follows; which was received and adopted:

REPORT.

The Educational Committee have examined with some care Daniel A. Long and Richard C. Tuck, two members of the Biblical class, and would report that they have made satisfactory progress in all the the branches of learning required to be studied by candidates for licensure, and have otherwise conformed to the usages of the church. Their recommendations are flattering, and their prospects for usefulness very good. We would, therefore, recommend that they be licensed, and suggest that they be set apart to the office of a licentiate during the present session of Conference. We further suggest that Bro. Long be instructed to deliver his trial sermon on Friday, 11½ o'clock A. M., of the present session; and that Bro. Tuck be relieved of the duty of delivering a trial sermon

Respectfully submitted,

J. N. MANNING, *Chairman.*

The following resolution was offered, and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Conference are due, and are hereby tendered, to Rev. W. D. Moffitt for the able and interesting annual address which he delivered before this body.

On motion of J. N. Manning, Brother D. A. Long was instructed to deliver his trial sermon before Conference on Friday, the 8th instant, at 11½ o'clock A. M.

On motion, a committee was appointed on memoirs, to wit: Revs. Alfred Apple, A. G. Anderson, and E. W. Beale.

The hour having arrived, Conference listened to the trial sermon of Brother D. A. Long, which was received with marked attention, and did much credit to our promising young brother.

On motion, the committee raised under the resolution of C. A. Apple, to carry effectually into execution the measures proposed in the interest of the church, was discharged without a report.

The following resolution was received and adopted:

Resolved, That we change the time of holding our Annual Conference from Tuesday to Friday, before the third Sabbath in November of each year.

The following report of the Committee on Church Letters was received and adopted:

REPORT.

Your committee, appointed to examine the letters from the churches belonging to this body, ask leave to report, That encouraging accounts come to us from nearly all our churches. Many of them have experienced gracious outpourings of God's Spirit, and in some instances large accessions have been made to the church. Our ministers have been punctual in the discharge of their duties, and their acceptance is fully attested in that they are generally recalled to their churches. Several new houses of worship have been erected, and many more are in contemplation.

Another encouraging feature is manifest from the letters: our churches seem anxious to promote the success of our cause by bringing forward young men for the Gospel Ministry, which your committee deem encouraging and of the highest importance to us as a denomination.

Respectfully submitted,

W. S. LONG, *Chairman.*

The following report on periodicals was received and adopted:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Periodicals respectfully ask leave to submit the following:

That the liberal views entertained by the Christian Church render it doubly necessary that our people be fully instructed in the doctrines and purposes of the denomination; otherwise, they are liable to misrepresentation and abuse, and the very principles which constitute our chief virtues are sometimes turned to hurtful purposes before our face. We think that a good religious periodical devoted to the interest of our organization would tend more fully to serve the purposes we have in view than, perhaps, any other means we could employ.

We, therefore, recommend to your body, to the church, and to the public, the *Christian Sun*, edited by our worthy and highly esteemed brother, Rev. W. B. Wellons, in Suffolk, Va.

This paper is the acknowledged organ of our denomination, and ought to be in the hands of every member of the church, in fact, in the hands of all classes of persons. Its columns are filled with choice thoughts on morality, truth, temperance and religion, and ever open to the discussion of matters pertaining to the general good. The value of this journal, we fear, is not fully appreciated by our people. Its patronage ought to be treble what it is. We consequently urge that every member of Conference use his best efforts to extend the circulation of the *Christian Sun*.

E. W. BEALE, *Chairman.*

The following report was unanimously adopted:

REPORT.

The committee to whom was referred a certain nameless communication addressed to this Conference, would report:

That, they have examined the communication in question, and find it to be a senseless jargon of words, tending to excite division, strife and contention among the churches, calling in question the actions of the Southern Conferences, and the proceedings of the late Christian Convention. We think it, therefore, unworthy of any further notice, and that the name of the author is not entitled to be mentioned, as thereby he might secure that notoriety he so much desires.

Respectfully submitted,

J. N. MANNING, *Chairman.*

On motion, Sunday morning, 10 o'clock, was set apart for the licensing of Brothers D. A. Long and Richard C. Tuck, who were recommended by the Educational Committee, and Rev. W. B. Wellons, President of the General Convention, was requested to officiate on that occasion.

On motion, the Chair announced the following as the Executive Committee for the next Conference year, to wit: A. Iseley, E. W. Beale, W. S. Long.

On motion, Revs. T. J. Fowler and A. Iseley were appointed fraternal messengers to Deep River Conference.

On motion, Revs. J. N. Manning and J. W. Wellons were appointed fraternal messengers to the Eastern Virginia Conference.

On motion, Revs. A. Apple and J. N. Manning were appointed fraternal messengers to the Central Virginia Conference.

On motion, Conference adjourned; singing and prayer by Rev. Alfred Apple.

SATURDAY, Nov. 9th.

Conference convened; the President in the chair; prayer by Rev. D. T. Deanes.

The following additional report of the Educational Committee was received and adopted:

REPORT.

The Educational Committee beg leave to make the following additional report: That, they have examined Bro. Wm. T. Walker on the subjects required in our Form of Government, and are pleased to say that this examination has, under the circumstances, been highly satisfactory. They would, therefore, recommend him to your body for license, as a probationer, to preach the Gospel.

Bro. W. G. Clements came well recommended, passed a fair examination, and was admitted a member of the Biblical Class. His prospects are very encouraging.

C. A. APPLE, *Chairman, pro tem.*

On motion, Rev. Alfred Iseley was selected to deliver the next annual address before this body, and Rev. A. G. Anderson his alternate.

On motion, a ballot was ordered for 2 o'clock P. M., to determine the place for the next meeting of Conference.

Conference took a recess to listen to a sermon by Rev. W. B. Wellons—a most excellent discourse, delivered with telling effect upon the large congregation present.

Conference resumed business at 2 o'clock P. M.

On motion, the special order for this hour, the location of the next Annual Meeting of Conference, was laid over.

The following report on Sabbath-Schools was received and adopted unanimously:

REPORT.

Your Committee on Sabbath Schools respectfully ask leave to report: That, more than ordinary interest has been manifested during the past year in the subject of Sabbath Schools. A number of churches, heretofore remiss, have organized efficient schools of this kind; but, owing to the failure of ministers and churches to report in this matter, as formerly requested, we are unable to give Conference any reliable statistical information.

We recommend that our ministers and churches be exhorted to give more diligence to this great work, and that each minister having a charge be requested to report the success of his operations to the Chairman of the Sabbath School Committee before the meeting of our next Annual Conference.

We also recommend the *Christian Sun*, published at Suffolk, Va., and the *Sunday School Herald*, published at Dayton, Ohio, as papers of great usefulness in the Sabbath School.

And we would respectfully solicit all our brethren to spare no means in building up this cause, which we deem so necessary to the prosperity of the church.

W. S. LONG,
J. M. MORING,
C. E. AYSCUE.

The following Report on Temperance was received and unanimonsly adopted:

REPORT:

The Committee on Temperance report, in accordance with our Form of Government:

1st. As to the best means adapted to the removal of this evil, we think public lectures, by ministers and other temperate men, a constant agitation of the subject in a Christian and benevolent spirit, through the press and otherwise, and an united effort upon the part of all good men and women, generally, to discountenance the use of all intoxicating liquors, would do much towards the removal of this great curse from our land.

We think that if society could be induced to unite with the church in condemning intemperance, it would tend very greatly towards securing the end we desire.

We would further recommend an active support of an organization which is spreading itself rapidly all over the Southern country; we mean the Friends of Temperance. This organization is zealously engaged in this holy work, and we think it well for the church to co-operate with it in a cause so worthy of support.

2d. As to the success of this cause, we would state that the efforts made during the last year or two have been highly satisfactory, but for the want of data at hand, we cannot furnish statistical accounts of the labors of brethren and friends.

3d. As to the obstacles the temperance cause has to encounter, we would state that the chief obstacles in the way, are, perhaps, the countenance that professors of religion give to the use of intoxicating drinks, and the apathy of the churches in many places on this subject. We would, therefore, recommend strict attention to the means mentioned in the first article of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

J. N. MANNING, *Chairman.*

The special order, which was laid over, was now taken up, and Salem Chapel, Forsyth county, N. C., was chosen as the place for the next meeting of our Annual Conference.

The following resolution, after debate, was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That all our ministers be directed to make public collections at each quarterly meeting of the church, for the purpose of raising a Conference Fund, to be devoted to such purposes as Conference may think best to promote the interest of the church; that this system of collection be continued year after year, or until otherwise ordered; and that the congregations be urged to liberality in this matter.

The Committee on Memoirs made the following report; which, after some sympathetic remarks by the brethren, was adopted:

REPORT.

The Committee on Memoirs ask leave to report that, during the year past, in the providence of God, our worthy brother, Wm. Rollins, has passed from labor to reward. Brother Rollins was nearly eighty years old, and had been a minister in the Christian Church thirty-five or forty years. He was warmly attached to the church of his choice, and labored devotedly in his Master's vineyard—always ready to go where duty called. We pray that God may remember in a special manner his dear family, and prepare them to imitate all his good examples.

Respectfully submitted,

A. APPLE, *Chairman.*

On motion, the Secretary called the roll of churches to ascertain how many copies of the minutes each would take. Many of the delegates had left for home, and consequently a number of the churches did not answer.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are due and are hereby tendered to the members and friends of Union Church, for the very kind treatment extended to the members of Conference during its present session.

On motion, the thanks of Conference were tendered to its officers for the faithful discharge of their duties.

The Committee on Home Missions reported as follows; which was received and adopted:

REPORT.

The Committee on Home Missions beg leave to report: That there are large portions of territory within the bounds of this Conference entirely unoccupied by ministers or churches, and many places are very inviting, in which flourishing churches might be organized, could suitable efforts be made; but, for the want of means necessary to the purpose, your committee are unable to suggest any plan, at this time, by which the gospel may be propagated beyond the local influence of regularly established churches. In fact, many of the churches are too weak, from real or imaginary causes, to employ ministerial labor, and must suffer, unless assistance can be afforded them. These facts clearly suggest the necessity of raising a Missionary Fund, for the purpose of supplying the pressing wants of the church within the bounds of Conference.

The following arrangements between ministers and churches have been made for the ensuing year, leaving many ministers without labor, and many churches unsupplied:

J. W. Wellons, Pastor at Mt. Auburn, Liberty Hill, Fuller's, Pope's Chapel, Good Hope, and Oak Level.

R G. Tinnen, Pastor at Shallow Well, Zion, Christian Chapel, Wake Chapel, Moore Union, and Pleasant Union.

J. N. Manning, Pastor at Pleasant Grove, Mt. Pisgah, Shiloh, Va., and Reeces.

A. Apple, Pastor at Union, Va., and Midway, N. C.

Solomon Apple, Pastor at Lebanon.

W. S. Long, Principal of Graham Female Seminary, Pastor at New Providence.

E. W. Beale, Pastor at Mt. Zion.

W. H. Franks, Pastor at Hayes' Chapel, Pleasant Spring, Smyrna, and Pleasant Hill.

J. N. Farrell, Pastor at Bell's, Martha's Chapel, Damascus, Pleasant Hill, and New Elam.

D. T. Deanes and W. D. Moffitt, Pastors at Salem Chapel, Ebenezer, and Liberty School House.

A. Iseley, Pastor at Shallow Ford, Apple's Chapel, Bethlehem, and Hines' Chapel.

C. A. Boon, Pastor at Bethel and Antioch.

T. J. Fowler, Pastor at Hanks' Chapel and O'Kelley's Chapel.

A. G. Anderson, Pastor at Concord.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. WELLONS, *Chairman.*

There was no report on statistics made, in consequence of no committee on the subject being appointed. We are, therefore, left without any data to determine with any certainty the accessions made to the churches during the year, but from imperfect information received from several sources, we suppose that about 250 were added to the churches, making the present membership within the bounds of this Conference about 4,500.

On motion, Conference adjourned to meet with the church at Salem Chapel, on Friday, 10 A. M., before the third Sunday in November next.

The business of Conference was transacted in a very happy and becoming manner, and the session was decidedly a pleasant one. Many encouraging features urge us to greater diligence and perseverance. The prospect of success is much brighter than the dark days of the immediate past indicated. The machinery of the church is in complete order for work, and the way is open in every direction for determined and resolute laborers to enter with the hope of a sure reward. The Declaration of Principles, Form of Government, &c., which has long been looked for with so much interest is now before the public, as a guide to the church and a seal to its virtues. There is no longer any excuse for ignorance of the church. All may now learn that its cause is sacred, and its purpose is holy. Brethren, let us so labor as to prove ourselves worthy of our high calling in Christ Jesus.

W. K. MARTIN, *President.*

J. N. MANNING, *Secretary.*

J. M. MORING, } *Assistant Secretaries.*
C. A. APPLE, }

CIRCULAR.

The CHRISTIANS came into existence, as a separate and distinct denomination, near the close of the last century. The new organization was at first composed mainly of seceders from the Methodist Episcopal Church, with Rev. JAMES O'KELLY as the leading spirit in the movement.

THEIR DISTINCTIVE PRINCIPLES.

1. The Lord Jesus Christ is the only Head of the Church.
2. The name Christian, to the exclusion of all party, or sectarian names.
3. The Holy Bible, or the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, a sufficient rule of faith and practice.
4. Christian character, or vital piety the only test of fellowship, or church membership.
5. The right of private judgment and the liberty of conscience, the privilege and duty of all.

A Declaration of Principles, Form of Government, and Directory for Worship, was devised and adopted by the General Convention of the CHRISTIAN CHURCH, in 1866, which has been endorsed by the Conferences represented in that Convention, printed, and is now in general use. All who desire to become thoroughly acquainted with the workings of the denomination should procure a copy. Price, 75 cents in full binding, or 50 cents half bound.

The CHRISTIAN SUN is published weekly, at Suffolk, Va., by Rev. W. B. WELLONS, and is the acknowledged organ of the denomination. Price, $3 per year, or $1 50 for six months. The Principles and Government of the Christian Church is for sale at the SUN office.

GRAHAM FEMALE SEMINARY.—The Seventh Regular Session will open on the 8th of January, 1868. Location healthy. Terms Low. Advantages good. For circulars, apply to Rev. W. S. LONG, Principal.

This is appended for the eye of strangers, into whose hands a copy of these minutes may happen to fall.